Call to Action:
Oppose Proposed Federal Loan Policy Changes

- ☑ ~~Phone call script~~
- ☑ ~~Social Media Message~~
- ☑ ~~One-page briefing~~
- ☑ ~~Short email template~~
- ☑ ~~Full letter for legislators~~
- ☐ Online Petition

Phone Call Script — 60 Seconds

Hello, my name is **[Name]**, and I am a nurse/constituent from **[City]**.

I am calling to urge **[Senator/Representative] [Last Name]** to *oppose the proposed federal loan policy changes* that would remove nursing from the professional degree classification.

This change would:

- Limit financial aid for nursing students,
- Worsen nursing shortages in Texas, and
- Undermine efforts to strengthen the healthcare workforce.

Nursing is a rigorous, scientific, and highly skilled profession. Reclassifying it would harm both current and future students and place patient care at risk.

I am asking the Senator/Representative _____ to **publicly oppose this proposal** and support policies that *protect and expand* the nursing workforce
.
Thank you for your time and your work on behalf of our community

Social Media Template Instructions

- Copy
- Paste
- Add in a photo that is meaningful to you, for example: a photo of you with a post-it that states '**#NotALineItem'**
- **Do not post instructions.**

#TakeActionTuesday 🚨 | Nursing Is a Profession — Not a Line Item
The proposed federal loan policy changes would **strip nursing of its professional degree classification**, jeopardizing access to education, limiting financial aid options, and worsening an already critical workforce shortage.

Texas nurses are **not** silent about policies that harm our profession, our students, or our patients. Today, we take action.

📣 **TNA District 7 is calling on all nurses, students, educators, and allies to contact your federal and state legislators NOW.** Tell them to **oppose** this harmful proposal and stand with nursing.
💬 We've made it easy:
✔️ Short email template
✔️ One-page briefing
✔️ Phone call script
✔️ Full letter for legislators
Your voice is powerful.
Your advocacy matters.
Take action today.
🔗https://tna7.nursingnetwork.com/nursing-news/206081-urgent-call-to-action-takeactiontuesday
#TakeActionTuesday #NotALineItem #NursesAdvocate #ProtectNursingEducation #TNADistrict7 #HealthPolicy #NursingWorkforce

Short Email Template Instructions

- Copy
- Paste
- Insert prompt information within the [brackets]
- Remove instructions and brackets

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Federal Loan Policy Changes Impacting Nursing

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name],

I am writing as a constituent and nurse to urge you to oppose the proposed federal loan policy changes that would remove nursing from the professional degree classification.

This proposal is deeply concerning. It would limit access to financial aid for nursing students, worsen existing workforce shortages, and undermine state and national efforts to strengthen nursing education and practice. At a time when Texas faces severe shortages across all levels of nursing—from bedside nurses to faculty—this policy would negatively impact healthcare access and patient outcomes.
Nursing is a scientifically rigorous, clinically complex profession that requires advanced knowledge, leadership, and ethical responsibility. It must remain classified as a professional degree.
I respectfully ask that you:

1. Oppose the proposed change;
2. Support continued professional status for nursing; and
3. Engage with nursing organizations to ensure policy reflects the realities of our workforce.

Thank you for your service to Texas and for prioritizing the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
Constituent, [Your City]

SAMPLE ONE-PAGE BRIEFING:

Proposed Federal Loan Policy Changes Threaten the Nursing Workforce

Prepared by: Texas Nurses Association District 7
Date: November 18, 2025

ISSUE SUMMARY

Recent federal policy proposals would remove nursing from the list of professional degree programs eligible for key financial aid and loan options. This change would reduce access to nursing education and undermine workforce development at a time of critical national shortage.

WHY THIS MATTERS

1. Nursing is a professional discipline: Nurses complete extensive scientific, clinical, leadership, and ethical training. This designation reflects the complexity and responsibility of the profession.

2. Removing professional status limits financial aid: Students, especially first-generation, rural, veteran, and Black/Brown learners, would face increased barriers to entry.

3. Workforce shortages will worsen: Texas and the U.S. are already facing record deficits in bedside nurses, faculty, and advanced practice nurses. Restricting educational access will directly harm patient safety and community health.

4. This contradicts federal and state workforce priorities: The proposal undermines HRSA, Title VIII, VA, and Texas-based strategies aimed at strengthening nursing education and training capacity.

WHO IS AFFECTED

- Nursing students (ADN, BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD, EdD in nursing)
- Rural and underserved communities

- Hospitals and healthcare systems
- Nursing faculty pipelines
- Veterans and mid-career students
- Communities with persistent health inequities

WHAT NURSES AND THE PUBLIC NEED FROM LEGISLATORS

1. **Publicly oppose** the proposed policy change.
2. **Support continued classification of nursing as a professional degree.**
3. **Protect access to federal loans and financial aid** for nursing students.
4. **Champion policies** that expand and support the nursing workforce.

WHY ACTION IS URGENT

This proposal poses a direct threat to the stability and growth of the U.S. healthcare workforce and undermines decades of bipartisan investment in nursing education and workforce development.

CONTACT FOR FOLLOW-UP

Texas Nurses Association District 7
President: Ebony Gebrehawariat, BSN, RN
Email: District7@texasnurses.org
Website: tna7.nursingnetwork.com

Sample Draft Formal Letter to Federal and State Legislators Regarding Proposed Federal Loan Policy Changes

Ebony S. Gebrehawariat
President, Texas Nurses Association District 7
District7@texasnurses.org
November 18, 2025

The Honorable [Legislator's Name]
[Address]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Nurses Association District 7 and the thousands of nurses, students, educators, and community stakeholders we serve across Central Texas to express deep concern and strong opposition to the recently proposed federal loan policy changes that would exclude nursing from professional degree classification. This proposal is not merely a technical adjustment—it is a direct threat to the strength, stability, and future growth of the U.S. nursing workforce.

Nursing is, and has long been, a rigorous professional discipline requiring extensive scientific knowledge, clinical judgment, leadership acumen, and ethical accountability. The classification of nursing as a professional degree is not symbolic; it reflects the educational preparation, clinical competencies, and societal responsibilities required for safe and effective patient care. Removing nursing from this designation is both inaccurate and profoundly harmful.

At a time when Texas and the nation face historic nursing shortages—projected to worsen significantly by 2030—this policy would actively widen the gaps in access, affordability, and opportunity for aspiring nurses. It would disproportionately impact first-generation students, rural communities, veterans, and Black and Brown students who already navigate structural barriers in higher education and healthcare career pathways.

Additionally, eliminating nursing from professional degree classification undermines ongoing state and national efforts to expand the workforce pipeline, strengthen advanced practice roles, and support nursing faculty development. With Texas already facing a critical educator shortage and limited clinical placement capacity, adding financial disincentives for nursing students threatens to derail the very workforce solutions our communities depend on.

This proposal also contradicts decades of evidence, federal workforce strategy, and bipartisan policy initiatives aimed at supporting nursing education. It stands in direct opposition to national health security priorities, emergency preparedness needs, and the federal government's own investments in nursing workforce development through HRSA, Title VIII, and VA nursing programs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to:

1. **Publicly oppose the proposed federal loan policy changes.**

2. **Advocate for the continued classification of nursing as a professional degree**, ensuring equitable access to financial aid and loan programs.

3. **Support federal and state legislation that protects and expands pathways into nursing**, including funding for nursing education, faculty development, and clinical training capacity.

4. **Engage with nursing organizations, educators, and workforce leaders** to ensure that policy decisions reflect the realities and needs of the profession.

The consequences of this proposal extend beyond nursing—they directly affect the safety, health, and resilience of every community in Texas. Nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system, and policies that diminish their educational standing or obstruct their entry into the profession place that system at risk.

I urge you to stand with the nursing community and reject this harmful policy change. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your staff, provide testimony, or assist in building bipartisan support to protect the nursing workforce and the patients we serve.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your service to the people of Texas.

Sincerely,

Ebony S. Gebrehawariat, BSN, RN
President, Texas Nurses Association District 7
Texas Nurses Association Member
Constituent, Temple, Texas